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California's Story of
California.

Chain of

Missions



CALIFORNIA'S CHAIN OF MISSIONS.

BY CARRIE B. RICE.

ILLUSTRATED BY MABEL E. RICE.



In days of yore, the Monks who came into the
lonely West,
First raised the cross in some bright glen, or on
a hilly crest,
And swung their bells from ancient oaks to call
red men to prayer,
While heads were bowed to chant the mass out
in God's open air.

From sea-girt San Diego to the open Gate of Gold,
Runs a chain of ruined Missions now, adobe shrines of
old,
Once the bells in chiming cadence told the solemn
hour of prayer,
While incense rose in perfumed clouds upon the quiet
air.



The silent tongues of brazen bells still hang in belfry
towers,
Now hushed the echoing notes that tell of holy angelus
hours,
When all must bow and cross themselves, must count
their beads and pray,
In morning hours, in noontide heat and at each close
of day.

Gift of Class of 1887

With beads untold, the padres lie in white-robed
solitude,
Sleeping the sleep that endeth not, in tangled
church-yard rude,
Where shadows of low arches gray, and dim
arcades repose,
The mustard and the lily white and golden poppy
blows.

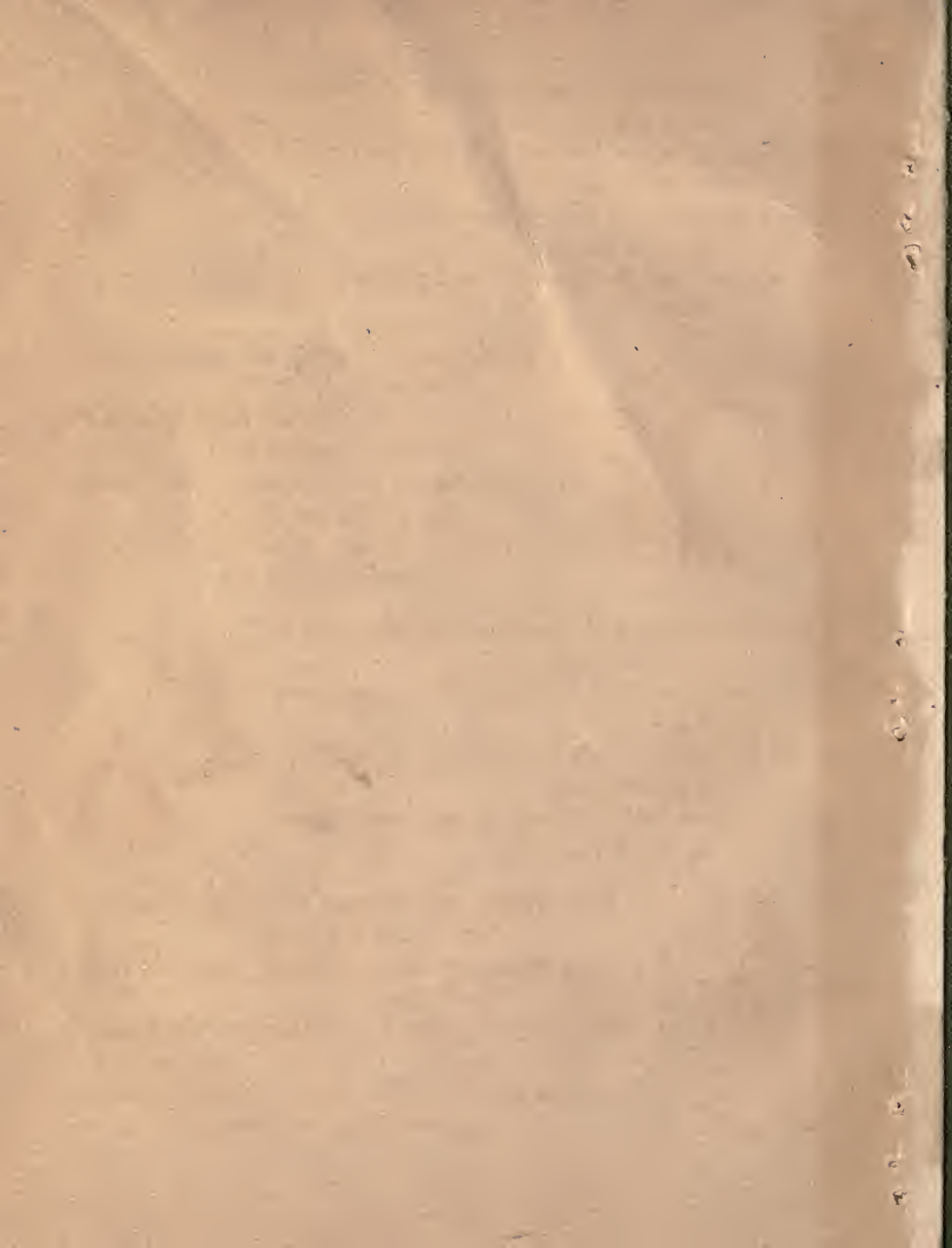


The grape vine and green ivy creep on trellis
and on wall,
Sweet fragrant breath of roses greets the
feathery peppers tall,
The curved stone benches yet remain, beneath
the palm trees shade,
But broken now the turn-stile gate where
crystal fountains played.

Then cross the emerald pastures and the smiling
meadow land,
To where the relic-hunter has laid his plundering
hand ;
While traveling in this sunset land, in health or
pleasure quest,
Whate'er you miss, fail not to see these abbeys
of the West.



Then restore the pristine beauty of these land-
marks old and gray,
That Spanish fathers cherished, now fast falling
to decay,
Though of another faith, 'tis true, we'll evermore
revere,
Storm-beaten walls that crumble, red-tiled
cloisters they held dear.



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